

Office of Public Instruction Biographies

Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau most recently served as the Director of Indian Education for OPI, overseeing the Indian Education for All program.

Her teaching career began in New Town, North Dakota on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Juneau taught 9th and 10th grade English, and coached the speech and debate team, before returning to Browning to teach at her alma mater.

Denise served as Indian Education Specialist for OPI before attending law school. Graduating from the University of Montana Law School gave her an understanding of how the law influences and affects our education system.

In 2004, she became Supreme Court Clerk for Justices Jim Regnier and Brian Morris. Working in the legal profession has sharpened her principles for fairness, integrity and respect for others.

Juneau is the first American Indian to serve in a statewide executive level office. She graduated from Browning High School, in Browning MT. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from Montana State University; her Master's of Education Degree in "Risk and Prevention for School Aged Children" from the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana. While at MSU, she received a Rockefeller Brother's Foundation Fellowship.

Denise credits Montana teachers with showing her that she could achieve her dreams and goals, and is grateful for their lessons. She is honored to serve as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction and looks forward to continuing her work with Montana's schools and education community, for the benefit of all students. Please contact Denise at 406.444.5658 or opisupt@mt.gov

Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent

Dennis has over 29 years of education experience and has served as District Superintendent, Shelby Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent, Havre Public Schools, and is currently Superintendent of Havre Public Schools. Dennis will finish the school year in Havre and will join OPI in July. Bob Runkel will be Acting Deputy Superintendent until Dennis arrives.

Bob Runkel, Acting Deputy Superintendent

Bob has worked for the Office of Public Instruction for twenty four years. Bob is currently serving as Acting Deputy Superintendent. Most recently he served as Assistant Superintendent. Bob's background and training are in the field of school psychology. He holds educator licenses in the state of Montana as a supervisor of special education P-12, special education teacher P-12, secondary teacher of psychology 7-12, and school psychologist K-12. Please contact Bob at 406.444.4434 or brunkel@mt.gov

Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Quinlan has worked for the Office of Public Instruction for eighteen years. She previously served as Chief of Staff for State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and Nancy Keenan where she focused on coordinating OPI's legislative agenda, supervising OPI's communication function, and providing leadership support to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Please contact Madalyn at 406.444. 3168 or mquinlan@mt.gov

Ann Gilkey, Chief Legal Counsel

Ann recently worked as the Equal Justice Coordinator for the State Bar of Montana. She served as program specialist for the Montana Supreme Court Assessment program and was Adjunct Professor at the University Of Montana School Of Law. Prior to joining the Montana Supreme Court, Ann held various positions including Supervising Attorney, Department of Public Health and Human Services and Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Family Services. Please contact Ann at 406.444.4402 or agilkey@mt.gov

Linda Kaiser, Director of Communications

Linda has over 20 years of leadership experience and has directed the Marketing and Public Relations efforts for several large companies in Montana. She recently served as Director of Marketing and Public Relations for a large hospital. Prior to her work at the hospital, she led the marketing and public relations efforts for AAA MountainWest. Linda is currently a member of the American Business Woman Association (ABWA). Please contact Linda at 406.444.3160 or lkaiser@mt.gov

Pete Carparelli, High School Initiative Director

Pete recently served as OPI's High School Initiative Project Education Management Specialist. He served as Superintendent for Teton County Wyoming, Billings and Butte Public School Districts. Prior to joining OPI, Pete served as Executive Director for the Montana Quality Education Coalition and was Associate Professor for Montana State University. As High School Initiative Director, Pete will bring the resources of OPI, other agencies and education organizations together to support Montana high schools. Please contact Pete at 406.444.4437 or pcarparelli@mt.gov

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director

Judy is currently State Assessment Director. Prior to joining OPI, Snow served as an Adjunct instructor for the University of Great Falls and taught public school in Great Falls, Montana. Judy served on numerous organizations including the American Association of University Women, where she founded and directed a summer computer camp for middle school girls. Please contact Judy at 406.444.3656 or jsnow@mt.gov

Joyce Silverthorne, P-20 Policy Advisor

Most recently, Joyce served as the Tribal Education Department Director for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She worked as the Bilingual Education Director for the Salish Kootenai Tribal College, Two Eagle River School, and was a gubernatorial appointee to the Montana Board of Public Education for 10 years. She was 2008 Tribal Education Department National Assembly (TEDNA) Director of the year and 2004 National Indian Education Association Educator (NIEA) of the year. Please contact Joyce at 406.444.3449 or jsilverthorne@mt.gov

Thea Van Nice, Executive Assistant

Prior to joining OPI, Thea was Executive Assistant to Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath. From 1989-2000 she served as Executive Assistant for State Superintendent Nancy Keenan. Thea has actively participated in community projects over the past 25 years. She is a founding board member of the Helena Youth Basketball Association, co-founder of the Helena Breast Cancer Resource Network, volunteer for the Festival of Trees, and Montana Special Olympics, and a member of Carroll College Boosters Club. Please contact Thea at 406.444.5658 or tvannice2@mt.gov

Faith Moldan, Office Manager

Faith has a unique combination of experience in communications, politics, and community organizing. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in News Editorial (major) and Spanish (minor) from South Dakota State University in Brookings and was the Sports and Outdoors Reporter and photographer for the Bigfork Eagle. She was most recently a field organizer for the Friends of Max Baucus campaign in Kalispell. Please contact Faith at 406.444.5643 or fmoldan@mt.gov